

NEW YORK HERALD

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shire manor house "dating back to 1549 and believed to have formed part of the dowry of Jane Seymour." Fourteen bedrooms—perhaps one is haunted—120 acres of shooting and a mile and a half of private trout fishing are among the attractions.

Maybe Miss Thomas's mind runs to something more intellectual than even an old manor house. A woman with \$9,000 a year could afford to run for Parliament.

Rail Wages in Living Costs.

Railroad workers threatening to resist further wage adjustments with strikes are simply threatening to resist further reductions in the public cost of living. Transportation charges are a very important factor in the cost of doing all business, from farming and manufacturing to retailing food.

In the three year period preceding the war the average transportation bill of the American people was under three billions of dollars a year. In 1920 it was more than six billions of dollars a year. Now if the increased traffic charges worked out against the public at no more than three billions of dollars there would be right there of itself an additional average load of \$150 a year on every family in the United States. But, as a matter of cold business fact, a national transportation bill of more than six billions of dollars a year does not and cannot stop short in its cost to the public at those actual traffic charges.

When a jobber buys and ships a carload of potatoes he must add to the price he pays for the potatoes and to the price he pays for transporting them his interest, his insurance, his percentage of loss from shrunken weight and from spoiled goods. Then on top of all that he must add his selling cost and his profit. If he does not figure in all those items from start to finish of the commercial operation he is doomed to go out of the potato business a bankrupt.

The same thing is true of the wholesaler. Again it is true of the retailer.

If 15 per cent. took care of all the waste, expense and profit of the jobber and a like 15 per cent. took care of all the waste, expense and profit of the wholesaler there would be a jobber's addition of \$450,000,000 to the three billions of traffic charge increase, and that would make \$3,450,000,000.

Then there would be a wholesaler's addition of 15 per cent. to that \$3,450,000,000, or \$520,000,000 more, and that would make approximately four billions of dollars.

But the retailer's selling costs are a very high percentage on the cost of his goods laid down to him because of the small units handled, the high rents paid, the heavy labor charges involved and the final delivery expense. The retail "mark-up" to cover all those items as well as the retailer's profit can scarcely ever be figured on the average at less than 33 1/3 per cent. And a 33 1/3 per cent. retail markup on nothing but a transportation bill increase of four billions of dollars adds one and a third billions of dollars more for the ultimate consumer to pay on that transportation bill increase. And that makes the transportation bill increase come out against the ultimate consumer at the colossal total of five and a third billions of dollars.

The traffic charge increase against the American public of five and a third billions of dollars makes an average cost of some \$265 a year on every family in the United States. Such a situation cannot be permitted to go on.

Pretty nearly everything in the country from farm products to shoe strings has been liquidated from war inflation levels except transportation and anthracite coal. Transportation, which is a bigger factor than any other element in the cost of living of the average American family, has got to be liquidated as coal has got to be. But transportation cannot be liquidated unless railroad labor is liquidated, because virtually all the stupendous traffic rate increases that were piled upon the American public during Government operation of the roads and during the whole war period went into railroad wage increases.

The Fascist in Northern Italy.

Italian politicians a year ago expressed the opinion that the Fascist movement would soon die out, in fact, that it would exist scarcely longer than the assembling of the Parliament. If it was an honest expression of belief they entirely underestimated the vitality of the movement, for the Fascists are manifesting as much strength now as they did before the general elections of 1921 and are proving as difficult for the Government to handle as ever, and even seem to have set up a government within the Government.

In the main their fight is in keeping with the purpose of their organization to combat radicalism with Italian nationalism. The difference is they are not fighting a Bolshevik propaganda from Moscow but communism and extreme socialism among their own countrymen.

The hostilities are confined largely to the industrial centers of northern Italy. There has been little trouble in southern Italy or Sicily. Riots have followed clashes in Genoa, Spezia, Trieste and Rome. In Ferrara the Fascists crushed a syndicalist uprising at its beginning by taking control of the town. They have evidently adopted much the same tactics at Bologna, the headquarters of

a strong socialistic organization. They forced the resignation of socialist and communist Mayors of surrounding towns and the flight of Mussolini, the communist leader of the Bologna district, from the communist stronghold of Molinella. They have under their command, according to a Rome report, a well drilled military force of about 65,000 men.

The peculiar feature of this armed occupation is referred to in the statement that the Fascists were welcomed at Bologna "by the city population with the flying of flags and great enthusiasm." In estimating the character of the Fascist movement it must be remembered that it is a reaction against the socialist rule of violence to which this same district was subjected during the world war and following the armistice. General strikes, called mostly for political purposes, repeatedly paralyzed the postal, telegraph and telephone services. Railway trains and tramways were stopped whenever the fancy struck the strike leaders, and cities and whole districts were plunged into darkness by calling out electricians and other employees on the smallest provocation.

A veritable dictatorship was established in communities where socialists were in control. Boycott was enforced against all those who would not accept the conditions laid down by the socialist leagues. This measure was so severe that a boycotted man could not live in his own country.

This was the condition which Italy's soldiers found on their return from the world war. It was this state of affairs which led them to organize the Fasci and which gave to their organization its rapid growth and national character. The Fascists have no fixed political opinion, except an openly avowed hatred of socialism. There seems little danger to Italy in their movement so long as they succeed in holding their own extremist elements to a course of moderation and to their original patriotic designs.

Traffic Warning Cards.

The new traffic warning cards should go a long way in saving the time and temper of the police and in clearing the traffic courts. They constitute a method by which the motor car driver will carry with him the record of his minor offenses. If he is caught with his car lights out of order or his muffler open, if he stands too long at the curb or cuts a corner the policeman to make an arrest or issue a summons. The officer will call for the driver's card and note thereon the nature of the offense. There are five spaces for recording violations of the ordinances; in this respect the new law is liberal. Upon the sixth offense the offender will be arrested or summoned to court, where all six complaints will be tried.

It is still the privilege of the citizen to insist upon immediate trial and to refuse to accept the card marking system. But it is not likely that many drivers will decline to accept the innovation. The offender will say to himself that he will never come to a sixth sin against the ordinances. But he must remember that the card does not cover serious offenses, such as speeding. They will be treated in the old way.

The Hungarian Election.

Contrary to the general forecast of the Hungarian political situation, the election on Sunday passed off quietly and without serious trouble between the rival factions. This may be due to the precautions taken by Admiral Horthy, who declared that he had not enough police and soldiers to insure order if all of Hungary voted on the same day. More than half the districts voted last Sunday; the others will hold their election next Sunday. The results so far are overwhelmingly in favor of the present Government.

Hungary considers the present election one of the most important in her modern history. Its object is to choose a National Assembly, which is to succeed the Constituent Assembly that came into existence after the world war for the purpose of drawing up a constitution for Hungary. The Constituent Assembly failed to complete its work, and the task will be taken up by the new National Assembly.

Naturally, the important matter for the constitution makers to decide is, Shall Hungary be a republic or a limited monarchy? If the choice is in favor of a monarchy, shall the house of Hapsburg be perpetuated by the selection of young Otto as a successor to Charles, or shall a king be chosen from some other house and a new dynasty be set up? The difficulty of deciding these questions will be apparent when it is remembered that the Constituent Assembly struggled vainly with them for almost two years.

While the Government will undoubtedly be the winner in the election, it is not yet clear what use Premier Bethlen can make of his victory. The Government party is a strange combination of so-called republicans, liberals, reactionaries of all degrees and agrarians. Bethlen's hope of handling this jumble of interests lies in the fact that the opposition is made up of an equally strange mixture of factions and that there is less reason to believe they will hold together in a crisis than that the Government forces will continue to present a solid front.

The head and front of the opposition are the monarchists, who favor the selection of Otto as the heir to the throne. The leader is APPONYI, one of the ablest of Hungary's politicians in the last days of the old

regime. He was chosen almost unanimously as a member of the Assembly. Strange as it may seem the opposition enrolls among its supporters the Social Democrats, who showed considerable strength in the election. The value of this support, however, is somewhat questioned, and naturally so, for the Social Democrats in the past have always opposed a Hapsburg restoration. The explanation of their alignment with the opposition is very likely found in the fact that they wished the liberals to make a good showing in the election. The communists declare that their present action is a political ruse and that when the proper time comes they will throw their strength to the Government.

The new Assembly has a hard job before it, but it is to be hoped for the tranquility of central Europe that it will so far succeed in reconciling the rival political factions as to establish a strong and just government for Hungary.

Thomas Hardy Is 82.

The novelist who put man in his place is 82 years old to-day. THOMAS HARDY was born on June 2, 1840, 20 years after the young Queen Victoria was crowned. WELLINGTON was still alive and DISRAELI was a very young politician. MR. HARDY was famous fifty years ago. He continues, as a poet, to invite criticism and gather laurels.

It would be a good thing if Mr. Hardy, before he enters the serene and yellow, would return to novel writing. He has not published a novel in twenty-five years. We know from his poems that he is still full of that magnificent gloom which colors his masterpieces and that his view of the cosmos has not changed. Man is still a shrimp; Nature, a whale.

A little while ago FREDERICK HARRIS, who is 81, scolded young Mr. Hardy for being so sad in his poems. This was unfair. Jeremiah cannot become Pollyanna at fourscore. The bitterness which tinctures Hardy's writings is sweet to his followers. Besides, consider the reaction on all readers. Nobody, after reading a Hardy tragedy, can be very despondent over his own woes.

If THOMAS HARDY would write another novel the world would wish it to be like the old ones; like "The Return of the Native" and "Far From the Madding Crowd." They were and are and will be good medicine. They show mankind what a little thing it is in the presence of the universe. The most conceited man in the world could not read the first chapter of "The Return of the Native" without shrinking.

But Mr. Hardy, we fear, will stick to his verse. Maybe he is right. Maybe in A. D. 2422 people will say that "The Dynasts" is better than the description of Egdon Heath. We file an exception now.

Beauties of the Elm.

The planting of shade trees of quick growing varieties is not wise if an improvement of a permanent character is desired. It is better to choose trees of slower growth and sturdier nature like the elm and the oak, which acquire greater dignity and beauty with the passage of years than any of the softer woods, particularly the poplar, which is likely to be in its decline when the elm is coming into its greatest glory.

New England and New York have communities in which the elm shaded streets have a cathedral-like effect and provide exactly the setting needed for the white frame houses. New Haven is remembered by visitors for the size and beauty of its elms. The same is true of Quincy and Springfield in Massachusetts, while among Saratoga's greatest glories are its avenues of elms which furnish a grateful shade in the warmest summer days.

Elms are among the finest of all trees, and while they are not as impressive from insect pests as some other trees, their stately and picturesque presence makes their care worth while.

In the Indianapolis 500 mile automobile race a tire on the winner's car was changed and a supply of fuel furnished in twenty-eight seconds. The familiar motor tourist who disembarks his family under a roadside shade tree, takes out a big kit of tools, puts on overalls and jumper, and suggests that lunch be prepared while he is making a new adjustment to the watch of the car, that half a minute is fair time for the job, and long for the repair pit facilities the racers enjoy.

The Brooklyn soldier whose name appears on three monuments and who has been praised as a hero in the mistaken belief he fell in battle but who obstinately refuses to admit he is dead has a hard job ahead of him to live up to the reputation his official eulogists have built for him.

I May Not Wander Down Deep Ways.

I may not wander down deep meadow ways
Where the pink honeysuckle blush
And glow,
Nor gather buttercups that overflow
With sun, nor see the smiling daisies raise
Their faces to the sky in silent praise
Of Him who gave them life. I may
Not go
Down garden-paths where the syringa
Fraught with the fragrance of forgotten
Mays.

Yet am I not bereft; these fairer things
Are mine as once they were in days
Now past,
I cannot lose that which belongs
To me;
Though I am fettered here, my thought
Has wings,
And I shall go contented to the last,
Since I may always walk with
Memory.

Reaching the Limit.

Flumery correspondence Morriston (Ark.) Democrat.
Tom Patterson is spending a few days in the Valley of Center Ridge has also moved in our midst.

Plays Without Profanity.

A Desirable Stage Reform Pointed Out to Actor-Managers.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: One reform which can be introduced by the actors who are to have their own theater is to leave out all profanity and expletives that would not be allowed in the actors' own homes. Let them teach the managers stage manners.

The Equity closed shop idea is un-American, but a union against swear words would be a public boon. Let its friends say what they will about art, the faded Theater Guild has not produced one cheerful play nor lessened the profanity prevalent in recent years in nearly all plays.

If the actors will start a crusade against all bad language on the stage it may result in lessening an evil which is worse to-day than in the time of Dryden and Congreve. Jeremy Collier combated the abuse successfully. The press could do the same thing to-day if once started, and abate the nuisance as Collier did more than a century ago.

Less Russian gloom, less swearing and more sunshine is what the theater needs just now.

Profanity does not add a bit to theatrical effect; nor in the end produce any more of the coveted laughs dear to the actor's heart. As to valsembance, since cussin' is as it actually cussed can never be voiced on the boards without arrest, why bother with it at all?

HERBERT S. RANTON.
NEW ROCHELLE, June 1.

Tomato Weevil Appears.

Warning From Mississippi